News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706 - TEL: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

Internet Homepage: http://www.idwr.state.id.us

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ENERGY DIVISION WIND SPECIALISTS IDENTIFY TOP DOZEN STATE-OWNED AREAS WITH POTENTIAL WIND POWER DEVELOPMENT

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For Media Information Contact:
Dick Larsen - (208) 327-7933

State Energy Division wind power specialists have reviewed hundreds of potential wind power development sites on state-owned land around Idaho to identify the top dozen with excellent potential for wind energy development, officials with the Idaho Energy Division said today.

The sites include two in Northern Idaho, seven in southwestern Idaho and three in eastern Idaho. The 12 areas, arranged in no priority from North to South, are state owned lands:

1. **South of Priest River in the Hoodoo Mountain area;**
2. **North of Kellogg;**
3. **Near the Oregon border west of Brownlee in Washington County;**
4. **Northeast of Cambridge in Washington County;**
5. **Reynolds Creek area of Owyhee County near Silver City;**
6. **Northeast of Mountain Home in the Bennett Mountain area;**
7. **North of Mountain Home in the Danskin Peak area;**
8. **North of Interstate 84 between Mountain Home and Glenns Ferry;**
9. **North of Interstate 84 in the Orchard area between Boise and Mountain Home;**
10. **South of American Falls near Rockland;**
11. **South of Idaho Falls; and**
12. **South of Lava Hot Springs**

Wind power experts will now scrutinized the 12 areas with on-site visits aiming to narrow the list down to a Top 5 ranking. Wind-measuring devices called anemometers then will be installed on towers at the five sites to record actual wind data for one year. The wind speed data is a crucial element in determining whether or not a site has commercial development potential.

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Once the wind data measurement phase is completed, Idaho Energy Division wind specialists will provide state land managers with data from the sites that could potentially be used to help the state market the sites to commercial wind energy developers.

To develop the list of sites, Idaho Energy Division scientists used computer technology to overlay digital Idaho wind power resource maps with grids pinpointing areas state owned lands.

IDWR geographic information system specialists then added additional layers of data showing power transmission lines, roads and other important wind power development requirements. The result was a matrix that let scientists rank those areas of state-owned land with the highest potential for wind energy development.

The narrowing of the list to 12 sites came Thursday (August 15) at a meeting in Boise. At the meeting, Energy specialists, commercial wind developers, land managers and other governmental representatives looked at a variety of factors including potential environmental issues, to come up with the top dozen areas.

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